output from the sensor is interpreted as a second set of commands when in the second input mode.

10. The user input device of claim **9**, wherein the adaptive input row includes a touch-sensitive region that extends beyond a display region illuminated by the display.

11. The user input device of claim **10**, wherein, in response to the touch being located within the touch-sensitive region, the adaptive input row is operable to change the display from the first set of indicia to a third set of indicia.

12. The user input device of claim **9**, wherein:

a set of programmably defined regions is defined along a length of the adaptive input row; and

the first and second set of indicia are displayed over a same set of programmably defined regions.

13. The user input device of claim **9**, wherein the first set of indicia includes an animated indicium that is responsive to the touch on the cover.

14. The user input device of claim **9**, wherein the sensor is configured to differentiate between:

a touch gesture input in which the touch is moved across at least a portion of the cover;

a forceful touch input in which the touch exerts a force that exceeds a threshold; or a multi-touch input in which multiple touches contact the cover.

15. An electronic device comprising:

a housing:

a primary display positioned within a first portion of a housing;

a keyboard having a set of keys positioned within a second portion of the housing;

an adaptive input row positioned within the second portion of the housing and along a side of the set of keys and comprising:

a cover forming a portion of an exterior surface of the electronic device;

a display positioned below the cover; and

a sensor configured to detect a touch within a programmably defined region on the cover.

16. The electronic device of claim **15**, wherein:

the sensor comprises a capacitive touch sensor formed from an array of capacitive nodes; and

the programmably defined region includes a touch-sensitive area detectable by multiple capacitive nodes.

17. The electronic device of claim **15**, wherein the sensor comprises two or more force-sensitive structures configured to detect a location of the touch along a length of the cover and a force of the touch.

18. The electronic device of claim **15**, wherein:

the sensor comprises a force-sensitive structure that is disposed about a perimeter of the display; and

the force-sensitive structure comprises:

an upper capacitive electrode;

a lower capacitive electrode; and

a compressible layer positioned between the upper and lower capacitive electrodes.

19. The electronic device of claim **18**, wherein the force-sensitive structure forms a protective seal around the display.

20. The electronic device of claim **15**, wherein:

the electronic device further comprises a flexible conduit operatively coupled to the display and the sensor;

the flexible conduit passes through a third opening in the housing located proximate to an end of the adaptive input row; and

the electronic device further comprises a gasket positioned about the flexible conduit to form a seal between the flexible conduit and the third opening.

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